

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for providing directory assistance services over a packet switched network,
the method comprising:

receiving a request message from an access device for information;

forwarding the information to the access device in response to the request message,

wherein the information includes basic content data and optional enhanced content data, the
information being stored in a database that is remotely located from the access device;

selectively receiving a modification message to modify the enhanced content data
associated with the information from the access device; and

updating the database based upon the step of selectively receiving.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the information in the forwarding step is
partitioned into a plurality of data types, the data types including viewable data, hidden data,
encrypted data, and state data.

3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising:

receiving a selection message from the access device, the selection message including
encrypted data and state data associated with the information; and

transmitting new visible data of the information associated with the encrypted data to the
access device.

4. The method according to claim 3 further comprising:

preparing billing information based upon the state data; and

generating a report based upon the state data.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the basic content data in the forwarding step includes a name, an address, and a directory number, the enhanced content data including at least one of a mobile number, a pager number, a facsimile number, a voice-mail, an e-mail address, and a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) identifier.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of forwarding is performed using a Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP), the packet switched network being an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the access device in the receiving step includes at least one of a personal computer (PC), a PDA (personal digital assistant), a web-appliance, an e-mail client, a web-enabled cell phone, and non-PC device.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the information is provided in part by a Regional Bell Operating Company (RBOC).

9. A server for providing directory assistance services over a packet switched network, the server comprising:

a communication interface configured to receive a request message from an access device for information; and

a processor coupled to the communication interface and configured to forward the information to the access device in response to the request message, wherein the information includes basic content data and optional enhanced content data, the information being stored in a database that is remotely located from the access device, wherein the processor selectively receives a modification message to modify the enhanced content data associated with the

information from the access device, the processor instructing update of the database based upon the modification message.

10. The server according to claim 9, wherein the information is partitioned into a plurality of data types, the data types including viewable data, hidden data, encrypted data, and state data.

11. The server according to claim 10, wherein the processor receives a selection message from the access device, the selection message including encrypted data and state data associated with the information, the communication interfacing transmitting new visible data of the information associated with the encrypted data to the access device.

12. The server according to claim 11, wherein at least one of billing information and a report is generated based upon the state data.

13. The server according to claim 9, wherein the basic content data includes a name, an address, and a directory number, the enhanced content data including at least one of a mobile number, a pager number, a facsimile number, a voice-mail, an e-mail address, and a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) identifier.

14. The server according to claim 9, wherein the communication interface is configured to use a Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP) to communicate with the access device, the packet switched network being an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

15. The server according to claim 9, wherein the access device includes at least one of a personal computer (PC), a PDA (personal digital assistant), a web-appliance, an e-mail client, a web-enabled cell phone, and non-PC device.

16. The server according to claim 9, wherein the information is provided in part by a Regional Bell Operating Company (RBOC).

17. A server for providing directory assistance services over a packet switched network, the server comprising:

means for receiving a request message from an access device for information;

means for forwarding the information to the access device in response to the request message, wherein the information includes basic content data and optional enhanced content data, the information being stored in a database that is remotely located from the access device;

means for selectively receiving a modification message to modify the enhanced content data associated with the information from the access device; and

means for updating the database based upon the modification message.

18. The server according to claim 17, wherein the information is partitioned into a plurality of data types, the data types including viewable data, hidden data, encrypted data, and state data.

19. The server according to claim 18, further comprising:

means for receiving a selection message from the access device, the selection message including encrypted data and state data associated with the information; and

means for transmitting new visible data of the information associated with the encrypted data to the access device.

20. The server according to claim 19, further comprising:

means for preparing billing information based upon the state data; and

means for generating a report based upon the state data.

21. The server according to claim 17, wherein the basic content data includes a name, an address, and a directory number, the enhanced content data including at least one of a mobile number, a pager number, a facsimile number, a voice-mail, an e-mail address, and a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) identifier.

22. The server according to claim 17, wherein the information is forwarded using a Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP), the packet switched network being an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

23. The server according to claim 17, wherein the access device includes at least one of a personal computer (PC), a PDA (personal digital assistant), a web-appliance, an e-mail client, a web-enabled cell phone, and non-PC device.

24. The server according to claim 17, wherein the information is provided in part by a Regional Bell Operating Company (RBOC).

25. An on-line directory assistance service system, the system comprising:

a server configured to receive a request message for information over a packet switched network from an access device, the server being configured to forward the information to the access device in response to the request message, wherein the information includes basic content data and optional enhanced content data; and

a database coupled to the server and configured to store the information,

wherein the server is further configured to selectively receive a modification message to modify the enhanced content data associated with the information from the access device, and to update the database based upon the modification message.

26. The system according to claim 25, wherein the information is partitioned into a plurality of data types, the data types including viewable data, hidden data, encrypted data, and state data.

27. The system according to claim 26, wherein the server receives a selection message from the access device, the selection message including encrypted data and state data associated with the information, the communication interfacing transmitting new visible data of the information associated with the encrypted data to the access device.

28. The system according to claim 27, wherein at least one of billing information and a report is generated based upon the state data.

29. The system according to claim 25, wherein the basic content data includes a name, an address, and a directory number, the enhanced content data including at least one of a mobile number, a pager number, a facsimile number, a voice-mail, an e-mail address, and a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) identifier.

30. The system according to claim 25, wherein the server is configured to use a Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP) to communicate with the access device, the packet switched network being an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

31. The system according to claim 25, wherein the access device includes at least one of a personal computer (PC), a PDA (personal digital assistant), a web-appliance, an e-mail client, a web-enabled cell phone, and non-PC device.

32. The server according to claim 25, wherein the information is provided in part by a Regional Bell Operating Company (RBOC).

33. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for providing directory assistance services over a packet switched network, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving a request message from an access device for information;

forwarding the information to the access device in response to the request message, wherein the information includes basic content data and optional enhanced content data, the information being stored in a database that is remotely located from the access device;

selectively receiving a modification message to modify the enhanced content data associated with the information from the access device; and

updating the database based upon the step of selectively receiving.

34. The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the information in the forwarding step is partitioned into a plurality of data types, the data types including viewable data, hidden data, encrypted data, and state data.

35. The computer-readable medium according to claim 34, wherein the one or more processors further perform the steps of:

receiving a selection message from the access device, the selection message including encrypted data and state data associated with the information; and

transmitting new visible data of the information associated with the encrypted data to the access device.

36. The computer-readable medium according to claim 35, wherein the one or more processors further perform the steps of:

preparing billing information based upon the state data; and
generating a report based upon the state data.

37. The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the basic content data in the forwarding step includes a name, an address, and a directory number, the enhanced content data including at least one of a mobile number, a pager number, a facsimile number, a voice-mail, an e-mail address, and a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) identifier.

38. The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the step of forwarding is performed using a Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP), the packet switched network being an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

39. The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the access device in the receiving step includes at least one of a personal computer (PC), a PDA (personal digital assistant), a web-appliance, an e-mail client, a web-enabled cell phone, and non-PC device.

40. The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the information is provided in part by a Regional Bell Operating Company (RBOC).